



PRESS RELEASE

EDPS/2026/02
Brussels, 13 February 2026

EDPS strengthens DPO role: new guidance and binding rules to protect DPO independence across EU institutions

Under EU law, all EU institutions, bodies, offices and agencies (EUIs) are required to appoint a data protection officer (DPO). To strengthen the effectiveness and independence of this function, the European Data Protection Supervisor (EDPS) has adopted two key documents clarifying the role and protection of DPOs within EUIs.

On 18 December 2025, the EDPS issued a [Supervisory Guidance on the role of DPOs in EUIs](#). The Guidance clarifies the EDPS's interpretation of the DPO's role, position and tasks in EUIs. It provides practical and up-to-date guidance on the designation of DPOs, their institutional positioning, the guarantees of independence attached to the function, and the responsibilities entrusted to them.

Building on this Guidance, the EDPS adopted [Decision 01/2026](#) on 16 January 2026, establishing binding Rules on the application of the requirement of prior consent by the EDPS for the dismissal of DPOs.¹ These Rules set out a clear and uniform procedural framework that EUIs must follow when seeking the EDPS's prior consent before dismissing a DPO prior to the end of their designation term.

Taken together, the Guidance and the Rules clarify both the EDPS's expectations and the applicable procedural requirements. They apply immediately and should be reflected, as appropriate, in the internal practices and decision-making of all EUIs concerning the position and protection of DPOs.

Wojciech Wiewiórowski, Supervisor, said: *“Since 2002, DPOs have been a cornerstone of effective data protection governance within EUIs. The updated Guidance and Rules on Consent for DPO Dismissal aim to strengthen their role by ensuring the independent, consistent and effective application of EU data protection law. These measures reinforce the DPO's position as a critical internal safeguard for the protection of personal data.”*

¹ OJ, L226/199, 29.01.2026.

Background information

The rules for data protection in the EU institutions, as well as the duties of the European Data Protection Supervisor (EDPS), are set out in [Regulation \(EU\) 2018/1725](#).

About the EDPS: The EDPS is the independent supervisory authority with responsibility for monitoring the processing of personal data by the [EU institutions and bodies](#), advising on policies and legislation that affect privacy and cooperating with similar authorities to ensure consistent data protection. Our mission is also to raise awareness on risks and protect people's rights and freedoms when their personal data is processed.

Wojciech Wiewiórowski (EDPS) was appointed by a joint decision of the European Parliament and the Council to serve a five-year term, beginning on 6 December 2019.

The selection procedure for a new EDPS mandate for the next term of five years is still ongoing.

The European Data Protection Supervisor (EDPS) is the independent supervisory authority for the protection of personal data and privacy and promoting good practice in the EU institutions and bodies.

He does so by:

- monitoring the EU administration's processing of personal data;
- monitoring and advising technological developments on policies and legislation that affect privacy and personal data protection;
- carrying out investigations in the form of data protection audits/inspections;
- cooperating with other supervisory authorities to ensure consistency in the protection of personal data

EDPS - The EU's Independent Data Protection Authority

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